

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 SP-03 EB-12 NSF-04 AID-20 NAS-01

HEW-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20

USIA-15 MC-02 AEC-11 AECE-00 /160 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, BR, PFOR

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: STATE 206675

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED WGSTT PREPARATIONS AS OUTLINED REFTEL WITH BAUTISTA VIDAL, SECRETARY FOR INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY IN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND HEAD OF BRAZILIAN SUBGROUP III DELEGATION. OVERALL GOB COORDINATOR, FRANK DA COSTA, HEAD OF FONOFF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HAS BEEN IN GENEVA AND WILL NOT RETURN TO BRASILIA FOR ANOTHER WEEK. DURING DISCUSSION OF POINTS MENTIONED IN SECTION (B) OF LAST PARA OF REFTEL, BAUTISTA VIDAL MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2. THUS FAR THE GOB HAS ONLY LOOSELY COORDINATED PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORKING GROUP, LARGELY UNDER DIRECTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE HAS THE PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL ROLE FOR SUBGROUP III, THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR SUBGROUP II AND THE R AND D FINANCING AGENCY IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, FINEP, FOR SUBGROUP I. WITH RESPECT TO EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE WORKING GROUP'S ACTIVITIES, BAUTISTA SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY

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TO ATTEMPT TO DEFINE WHAT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WORKING

GROUP MIGHT BE. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT BRAZIL WAS STRONGLY INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING PRAGMATIC RESULTS AND DID NOT WANT THE WORKING GROUP TO END UP SIMPLY AS A POLITICAL EXERCISE. HE SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS IN CARACAS AND BOGOTA, THE GOB WOULD EXAMINE THE PROGRESS OF THE VARIOUS SUBGROUPS AND DEVELOP A MORE DEFINITE POSITION AS TO WHAT THE WORKING GROUPS MIGHT REALISTICALLY ACCOMPLISH.

3. ON THE QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT BRAZIL WOULD COMMIT FUNDS TO AN INCREASED JOINT EFFORT, BAUTISTA REPLIED DEFINITELY YES, THAT BRAZIL WAS INTERESTED IN MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION AND THAT, WHILE BRAZIL HOPED TO REAP REAL BENEFITS FROM THE WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, THE GOB WAS NOT LOOKING FOR FINANCIAL HELP. WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTIONS REGARDING A POSSIBLE JOINT COMMISSION AND FUNCTIONS OF A FOLLOW-ON MECHANISM, BAUTISTA SAID THAT THESE WERE SUBJECTS FOR SUBGROUP IV AND COULD NOT BE USEFULLY DISCUSSED UNTIL THERE WAS SOME IDEA OF WHAT MANNER OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS MIGHT RESULT FROM THE WORK OF SUBGROUPS I, II AND III. HE SAID BRAZIL DID NOT FAVOR THE KIND OF APPROACH THAT STARTED BY BUILDING NEW INSTITUTIONS OR CREATING MECHANISMS AND ONLY SUBSEQUENTLY ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF WHAT THE INSTITUTIONS OR MECHANISMS ARE SUPPOSED TO DO. ON THE QUESTION REGARDING A ROLE OR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OAS, BAUTISTA VIDAL REPLIED THAT NOT MUCH COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THE OAS AND INDICATED THAT THE GOB WAS NOT ANTICIPATING ANY ROLE FOR THAT ORGANIZATION.

4. COMMENT: WHILE BRAZILIANS HAVE EMPHASIZED THEIR DESIRE FOR CONCRETE AND MEANINGFUL RESULTS, THEY APPARENTLY HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE POINT OF FORMULATING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. EMBASSY HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT BRAZILIAN LEADERS AT THE RESEARCH AND INDUSTRIAL LEVELS ARE NOT YET FULLY SEIZED WITH WG PREPARATIONS AND EVEN INFORMED OFFICIALS LIKE BAUTISTA VIDAL ARE WAITING BEFORE REACHING CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE LIKELY END RESULTS OF THIS EFFORT. WE BELIEVE VISIT TO BRAZIL BY SENIOR WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES SUGGESTED REFTEL WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOLLOWING BOGOTA AND CARACAS SUBGROUP MEETINGS, PARTICULARLY AFTER LATTER WHEN LATINS SHOULD HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT OF THEIR DESIDERATA ARE ACTIONABLE AND GOB WILL BE MORE FOCUSSED ON WG RESULTS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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